



HOW MĀUI SNARED THE SUN

Early one day, long before sunrise, Māui, the mischievous demigod known throughout the Pacific Islands, crept to the summit of Haleakalā, where he lay waiting for the sun's first spidery legs to appear. As they came over the edge of the rim one by one, he lassoed each ray and secured it to a williwilli tree. The sun, now unable to move, begged for its freedom. Māui would not release the sun until it had promised to slow its daily rush across the sky – so that Māui's mother could finish her daily chores of drying kapa (bark cloth) and preparing food while there was yet daylight.

Māui, left some of the ropes attached to the sun – to remind it of its promise to travel more slowly across the heavens. Every evening just before the sun sets, the ropes can be seen trailing off into the night sky as daylight fades.

And to this day the sun is more careful to go slowly across the heavens, and the great mountain is known as Haleakalā – 'House of the Sun'.